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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/531,308	04/13/2005	Hiroshi Kajimaru	0020-5368PUS1	6336
2292 7590 06/11/2007 BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			EXAMINER MESH, GENNADIY	
			ART UNIT 1711	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 06/11/2007	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/531,308	Applicant(s) KAJIMARU ET AL.	
	Examiner Gennadiy Mesh	Art Unit 1711	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 April 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 5-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-2 and 5-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Applicant's amendment filed on April 27, 2007 is acknowledged.

Claims 1,5 and 8 are amended. Claim 4 canceled by Applicant and Claim 10 is newly added.

Rejection is maintained as it was set forth in previous Office Action mailed on December 27, 2006, but altered due to Applicant's Amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. Claims 1-2,5-6 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Uno (EP 1 202 122).

Regarding Claims 1 and 2 Uno discloses aqueous polyester resin dispersion composition comprising, polyester resin particles in the amount of 50 % by mass (see line 53, page 11), having acid value of 5 - 100 mg KOH/g (see line 55,page 3) and average molecular weight from 10,000 to 500,000 (see line 45, basic compound(see abstract) and water, in the amount more than 10 % by mass. Composition contains polyester particles with particle size in a range from 100 nm to 10 micron(see line 25,page 7). Composition does not contain surfactant.

Regarding Claims 1,5-6 and 10 Uno discloses that polyester resin can be prepared by polymerization of polybasic acid [0021], wherein polybasic acid can be tri- or four- functional [0022] and/or aromatic, including for example, isophthalic acid [0026] or trimellitic acid[0034] and variety of glycols, including for example, ethylene glycol [0034].

Regarding limitation of Claim 1:

“ wherein when the polyester resin aqueous dispersion is applied on a tin-free steel plate of 0.19 mm in thickness by using a desk-top coater and heated in an oven at 200°C for 3 minutes to yield a resin film of 3 μm in thickness on the steel plate, the resultant resin film exhibits processability of 0T, 1T or 2T, in which the steel plate obtained is bent together with a stack of several steel plates having the same thickness in a pressing machine in such a manner that the resin film become outside the bent plates to examine visually the presence of cracks in the bent area of the resin film, and the minimum plate number n at which the crack is not generated is determined and used as an indicator of processability and designated as nT” -

As substantially same, polyester resin disclosed by Uno will inherently has same properties, including ability to form film with properties claimed by Applicant's at specified conditions.

2. Claims 1-2 and 5 -10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Kajimaru(US 2002/0061959 - now US Patent 6,818,699).

Regarding Claims 1 and 2 Kajimaru discloses aqueous polyester resin dispersion composition comprising, polyester resin particles in the amount from 1- 60 % by mass (see lines 55 – 65,column 6), with preferable range of acid value of 8 to 25 mg KOH/g – (note, that reference also discloses that acid value can be less than 8 mg – see lines 10 – 15,column 5) and average molecular weight more than 9000,preferably 14000 (see lines 15-20,column 5) , basic compound(see abstract) and water, in the amount more than 10 % by mass (see Table 2).

Composition contains polyester particles with particle size less than 400 nm(see Table 3). Composition does not contain surfactant.

Regarding limitation of Claim 1 as :

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" wherein when the polyester resin aqueous dispersion is applied on a tin-free steel plate of 0.19 mm in thickness by using a desk-top coater and heated in an oven at 200°C for 3 minutes to yield a resin film of 3 μ m in thickness on the steel plate, the resultant resin film exhibits processability of 0T, 1T or 2T, in which the steel plate obtained is bent together with a stack of several steel plates having the same thickness in a pressing machine in such a manner that the resin film become outside the bent plates to examine visually the presence of cracks in the bent area of the resin film, and the minimum plate number n at which the crack is not generated is determined and used as an indicator of processability and designated as nT" -

As substantially same, polyester resin disclosed by Kajimaru will inherently has same properties, including ability to form film with properties claimed by Applicant's at specified conditions.

Regarding Claim 5 see [0023].

Regarding Claim 6 see [0021].

Regarding Claims 7 and 8 Kajimaru discloses production process of obtaining aqueous dispersion of polyester resin(see [0060] – [0066]), wherein resin mixed with organic solvent and basic compound in water at preferable temperature less than 40°C with following step of removing organic solvent(see [0067]).

Regarding limitation of Claim 9: amount of basic compound(see[0050]) disclosed by Kajimaru as 0.2 to 2 times more than equivalent amount of the carboxyl group satisfies value of F in formula (1).

Regarding Claim 10 – see [0022], [0023], [0024],[0026] and [0027].

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory

obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

3. Claims 1-2 and 5 - 10 rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-6 of U.S. Patent No. US 6,818,699 and in view of Uno(EP 1 202 122).

Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because(as it shown in paragraph 2 above)Applicant's claimed subject mater is obvious modification of claims 1-6 and 10 of U.S. Patent No. US 6,818,699.

Claims 1-6 of U.S. Patent No. 6,818,699 drawn to polyester aqueous dispersion and method of producing this dispersion, using same chemical compounds. The difference is in acid value of polyester resin, particularly in range below 8 mg. However, Uno teach that substantially same polyester with range of acid value about 5 mg can improve stability of the polyester resin in dispersion (see [0017]).

Therefore, it would be obvious to modify claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,818,699 and claim range of acid values below 8 mg.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on April 27, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding arguments related to rejection of Claims 1-2, 5-6 and 10 anticipated by Uno'122':

Uno does disclose specific components as it stated in rejection above – see paragraph 1 above - including isophthalic acid [0026], trimellitic acid[0034] and variety of glycols, including for example, ethylene glycol [0034].

Regarding arguments related to rejection of Claims 1-2, 5-10 over by Kajimaru "959": reference does disclose acid value in a range below 8 mg (see lines 10 – 15, column 5) as it was stated above- see paragraph 2. Note, that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have considered the disclosures of the references to be limited to their preferred embodiments or working examples – see Merc, 874 F.2d at 807, 10 USPQ 2d at 1846.

Regarding arguments related to ODP rejection over Claims 1-6 of U.S. Patent No. US 6,818,699 and in view of Uno(EP 1 202 122) see paragraph 3 of the rejection above.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gennadiy Mesh whose telephone number is (571) 272 2901. The examiner can normally be reached on 10 a.m - 6 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Seidleck can be reached on (571) 272 1078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Gennadiy Mesh
Examiner
Art Unit 1711

Irina Zemel

IRINA ZEMEL
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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06/04/07